

***The Institution of Engineers, Australia: Sydney Division
Monaro Group***

Oral History Program: Biographical Notes

**Alexander Ross McIntyre (1923-)
Civil Engineer**

- Birth & Family:** Alexander McIntyre was born in Chatswood, NSW on the 21st May 1923. He was the younger son of Alexander John and Blanche Emily. He married Mary Elizabeth McLeod in 1951.
- Education:** Roseville Primary School 1928 – 1935
North Sydney Boys' High School 1936 – 1939
University of Sydney 1940 – 1943.
- Qualifications:** BE (Civil)
Health Inspector's Certificate
Local Government Certificate as Health Inspector
Local Government Certificate as Engineer.
- Awards:** Institution Award for a notable contribution to the literature of the engineering profession.
- Memberships:** RSL
Institution of Engineers, Australia
Australian Water and Waste Water Association
ACT Advisory Council
Board of Canberra Brickworks
Stores and Supply Board.
Federal Golf Club, Corryong Golf Club
- Work History:** While at University, McIntyre worked in Eastaway's engineering workshop to gain practical experience and in 1941 he joined the Institution of Engineers, Australia. In 1942, again for practical experience, he worked for the Department of Main Roads (NSW) on Inland Highway Number 42 near Charters Towers in Queensland.
- Following graduation in 1943, while awaiting call up by the RAAF, he joined the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board (MWS & DB, now Sydney Water) as a Professional Officer General Scale and worked in the Design Office on sections of the Warragamba pipeline.
- McIntyre joined the RAAF and attended the School of Administration as Aircraftsmen Class 1 for three months and was then promoted to Pilot Officer. After training he left to participate with overseas invasion forces in Papua New Guinea. On 29th July 1944 McIntyre was promoted to Flying Officer. He participated in the Allied invasion of Borneo in May 1945, and continued to serve in the RAAF until his discharge on 3rd December 1945.
- In 1946 after being demobilised, McIntyre rejoined the MWS & DB and worked on pipeline and tunnel investigation work. He joined the Commonwealth Department of Civil Aviation in Melbourne and worked on the preliminary survey for the current Hobart airport.
- Between 1946 and 1950 he studied for the Local Government Engineer's Certificate (which he received on 24th September 1948), the Health Inspector's Certificate (awarded on 31st December 1948), and the

Local Government Certificate as Health Inspector (which he received on 30th August 1950).

McIntyre was seconded from the Commonwealth Public Service to the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority in 1950. He started in the Sydney office at Alexandria, working on preliminary road location in the Guthega area. In 1952 he was transferred to the Cooma Office as Plant Engineer and then to works planning involving investigation of supply and storage of bulk cement for major projects and location of access roads and camps. McIntyre compiled the "Snowy Safety Manual" and also spent some time with the Major Contracts Section, working on the letting and subsequent examination and award of contracts for major construction works.

In 1953 he trained for ten months with the United States Bureau of Reclamation where he worked on Sly Park Dam and Tunnel in California, Folsom Dam and Power Station in California, Kerwin Dam in Kansas, Pactola Dam in South Dakota and Denver Office in Colorado.

In 1954 McIntyre transferred to the Cabramurra Office as Officer Engineer, though he was often on site covering major contracts in the field. In 1956 he was a co-ordinating officer for the visit of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh. In 1958 he was transferred to Tantangara as Resident Engineer for the construction of a concrete gravity dam and ten mile Murrumbidgee – Eucumbene Tunnel. In that year he also presented a paper on concrete technology to the Engineering Conference of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

McIntyre transferred to the Head Office in Cooma in 1961 and worked in the Major Products? (*should this be 'Projects'*) Section acting for the Chief Engineer when necessary. In 1962 he was transferred to the Khancoban Office as Senior Resident Engineer responsible for supervision of construction of all works on the western side of the mountains. This included Geehi Dam, Snowy – Geehi Tunnel, Geehi - Murray Tunnel, Murray 1 Power Station, penstocks and Tailrace Dam, Khancoban Dam and the Murray 2 Power Station. In 1964 McIntyre was one of a group of engineers who won the Institution Medal for their paper on tunnelling.

In 1966 he terminated his secondment to the SMA and rejoined the Commonwealth Public Service as Assistant Director Construction with the Department of Works (ACT). In 1967 McIntyre served on the Director – General's Special Committee for the development and production of project management into the Department.

In 1974 he was appointed the Director of Housing and Construction in the ACT region, and in 1983 he acted as Director of the Queensland Region in the Brisbane Office for three months.

McIntyre was Chairman of the Canberra Division of The Institution of Engineers, Australia from 1973 to 1974. In 1984 he retired from the Commonwealth Public Service.

McIntyre said that the Snowy project was the start of multiculturalism in Australia. The mix of nationalities learned to get along together, to overcome language barriers and to have mutual respect for one another. He also said that Sir William Hudson was 'light years' ahead of his contemporaries and strove to make the Snowy Scheme known to all Australians. McIntyre saw his time in the Snowy Scheme as invaluable.